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Weekend, June 30 - July 4, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

HOMETOWN HERO

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JULY 23

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IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

Our Things to Do section has a whole new look! 24-28

GETTY IMAGES

Creative Africa

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1 Continent
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Philadelphia Museum of Art

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

PUERTO RICO BILL PASSAGE ON HOLD

The timing of a final Senate vote on passage of a bill to address Puerto Rico's financial crisis remained uncertain on Wednesday as Democrats sought a debate on amendments, the No. 2 Senate Republican told reporters on Wednesday. Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, speaking an hour after the bill survived a critical procedural vote, said lawmakers did not have unanimous consent to dispense with parliamentary rules and proceed quickly to passage of the legislation, two days before a key July 1 deadline for Puerto Rico to make a $2 billion debt payment. He said Democrats, including Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, were withholding their consent in hopes of pushing forward with amendments to the bill, which Republicans have not agreed to consider. REUTERS

MERKEL SEES NO CHANCE OF BRITISH U-TURN ON BREXIT

2 German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she saw no chance that Britain might go back on its decision to leave the European Union. Speaking at the end of the first day of an EU summit, Merkel described talks with outgoing British Prime Minister David Cameron as "serious" but "friendly." She said it was not a time for sorrow or anger, but that Europe must simply deal with the situation with which it was now confronted. Merkel sees no reason to halt TTIP talks after Brexit vote "I want to say very clearly tonight that I see no way to reverse this," Merkel said when asked about the possibility of a British U-turn on Brexit. "We all need to look at the reality of the situation. It is not the hour for wishful thinking." REUTERS

CALIF. GETS GO-AHEAD TO VOTE ON LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

3 Californians are set to decide whether to make recreational marijuana use legal, as other Western states have done, after the California secretary of state's office said the issue could be put to voters in November. The proposed so-called Adult Use of Marijuana Act, which is supported by Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom among others, would allow people to possess as much as an ounce of marijuana for private recreational use and permit personal cultivation of as many as six marijuana plants. "Today marks a fresh start for California, as we prepare to replace the costly, harmful and ineffective system of prohibition with a safe, legal and responsible adult-use marijuana system that gets it right and completely pays for itself," initiative spokesman Jason Kinney said in a statement. REUTERS

Clinton campaign steps up fight for women's votes in Pa.

Clinton speaks at an event. GETTY IMAGES

Presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton is kicking off new efforts to win women voters in the battleground state of Pennsylvania.

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In the impending campaign battle between presumptive presidential nominees Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, Pennsylvania looks like it will be a key battleground state.

A Quinnipiac poll released last week showed the candidates in a tight race in the state, Clinton 42 to Trump's 41 percent (U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders was over Trump 47 to 40 percent in the poll). Another Quinnipiac poll released Wednesday showed Clinton with 42 percent to Trump's 40 nationwide.

So, Clinton's campaign kicked off new efforts to win the state Wednesday with a focus on winning the female vote through a series of "women to women" campaign events.

Starting Wednesday evening, voters in Pennsylvania can expect to start hearing from "women to women" phone banks, three based in the Philadelphia area and two in western Pennsylvaiania., reaching out to female voters to discuss Clinton's support for issues like women's health care, paid leave and affordable child care, her campaign said.

"Hillary has a very broad appeal to voters, but women voters in Pennsylvania are a very important part of the electorate and they're going to be a decisive part of the election," said state Rep. Leanne Krueger-Braneky (D-Delco), a Clinton supporter.

Clinton also strongly opposes the 20-week abortion ban recently passed into law by the Pennsylvania state legislature.

"She's going to stand up for the issues that I care about," Krueger-Braneky said of Clinton's opposition to that bill. "What's happening right here in Harrisburg shows how important it is to have someone like Hillary, who's going to stand up and defend against attacks on reproductive rights."

Female voters are expected to play a key role in the presidential race. In the 2012 election, women made up 52 percent of the vote in Pennsylvania, and Obama won the state 56 percent to 43 percent.

"My hope is that come November, when the choice is between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, folks push the right button."

Krueger-Braneky

Quinnipiac found Clinton leading Trump among female voters in the state 50 to 34 percent.

Trump supporters in the Philly suburbs are optimistic they can win in Pennsylvania, which hasn't gone for a Republican presidential candidate since 1988.

But Clinton's campaign said they will be seeking to "emphasize the dangerous candidacy of Donald Trump for Pennsylvania women and families," citing his pro-life stance, his support for defunding Planned Parenthood, and the fact that in public comments he has called women "pigs," "dogs," and "disgusting."

Not everyone in mostly Democratic Philadelphia supports Clinton. Anti-poverty activist Cheri Honkala, whose group the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign will lead a protest at the Democratic National Convention in July, bashed Clinton at a press conference Tuesday.

"Hillary, you don't represent the women in this city or in this country. You ain't welcome in this town. We are not fooled whether you are Pepsi or Coke, you don't belong here, you don't care about our children, and yes, you need to get the hell out of our city," Honkala said.

But Krueger-Braneky said that even voters who feel disenfranchised or are struggling with poverty should support Clinton.

"When I look at Donald Trump versus Hillary Clinton, the choice is clear: who is the candidate who is going to fight for income inequality, who is going to stand up for folks who are on the margins of society, who has the demeanor I want when we're facing a crisis?" Krueger-Braneky asked. "My hope is that come November, when the choice is between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, folks push the right button."

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Clergy, activists to hold 'schools' to ensure DNC protests remain nonviolent

Training sessions will teach how to exercise rights peacefully.

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Fueled by divisive language and frustration with both major political parties, this election cycle has been more violent than any since the "Days of Rage" in Chicago in 1968.

Next month, the emotional protests and warring factions land on Philadelphia's doorstep when the Democrats hold their national convention in the city July 25-28.

In preparation, area clergy members announced they will host a "freedom school" at the Arch Street United Methodist Church prior to and during the DNC to teach protesters methods of peaceful demonstration and provide them with information and resources should they be approached by law enforcement.

In the spirit of the 1964 Freedom Summer and the Rev. Martin Luther King's nonviolent civil disobedience tactics, the school will offer "Know Your Rights" training, medical care for injured activists and will open its doors "for respite" as needed during the convention.

"We know those coming to the city, and those already here, planning to exercise their First Amendment right are going to need some support," said the Rev. Robin Hynicka, of Arch Street Methodist. "They're going to need love, they're going to need some place to go. We're sending that message today."

An interfaith network of clergy, leaders of conscience, gun-reform activists, members of the Up Against the Law legal collective and students gathered in the Arch Street church for a news conference Wednesday. They differed in creed, in race and ethnicity and in gender, but their message was unified: The voices of those engaging in resistance must be heard.

The Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church in Society Hill and member of Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild (POWER), was among the featured speakers.

"We're here because we need one another," Tyler said. "Others will come to the city in a month to demonstrate and protest and speak their minds. Some things we will agree with, some things we will not. But we certainly agree with the fact that they have the right to do it as long as it's nonviolent without being forced into silence."

Still, First Amendment rights have become a contentious issue in the weeks leading up to the convention. The city has approved nine of 23 protest permits as of June 23, the latest date for which information was available.

Several groups whose permits were denied or pending, including the Philly Coalition for REAL Justice and the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (PPEHRC), have said that they intend to protest anyway, with some activists vowing to "shut the city down."

The Rev. Gregory Holston, who helms New Vision United Methodist Church in North Philly, said DNC protesting requires an understanding of how to protest to enact the transformation that our communities need, "because there is much to protest," he said.

If you go

"Right to Know" sessions will be held Saturday, July 9; Saturday, July 16; Wednesday, July 20; and Saturday, July 23.

Area faith leaders and activists held a news conference at the Arch Street United Methodist Church. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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Philly moms affected by gun violence thank Pa. reps for 'sit-in'

Two Democratic Pennsylvania congressmen who recently participated in the "sit-in" for gun control legislation in the House of Representatives were honored Wednesday by local moms who have lost loved ones to gun violence.

U.S. Reps. Bob Brady, chair of the Philadelphia Democratic Party, and Brandon Boyle both participated in a 26-hour sit-in in the House of Representatives to demand a vote on gun control legislation in the wake of the mass shooting in an Orlando gay club that killed 49.

"We have kids, women, unborn kids, that are getting shot in schools, in recreation centers, in churches, on the street. How long are we going to keep doing this?" Brady asked. "What do we do, give them a moment of silence? That's BS. We got to give them more than a moment of silence."

Representatives of CeaseFire PA, a gun control advocacy group, presented Brady and Boyle with special pillows to sit on if they have to go another sit-in anytime soon.

Many family members of victims of gun violence were at the rally in support of their congressmen.

Lisa Espinosa's 26-year-old son, Raymond Pantoja, was shot to death in Kensington on April 10 after a scuffle in a club. The murder is unsolved.

"We do need to change these guns laws," Espinosa said. "Forty-seven percent of homicides are unsolved. That's not right."

Darnetta Green Mason, of West Philly, lost her son Dwayne Erik Green nine years ago.

"With every breath that I breathe from now until there's no more, I will fight for my son and all of the other sons and daughters who have been taken from their families," Mason said.

Lisa Espinosa holds a sign asking for justice for her son. SAM NEWHOUSE

The murder of her son was never officially solved, but the person suspected of killing her son was himself murdered a month ago, she said.

"Whatever the circumstances, another mother is without her son," she said.

Cherie Ryans described the 1990 murder of her son Terence, who was killed by a group of men armed with TEC-9s.

"You have a right to buy your gun," Ryans said. "It becomes against my rights when somebody takes that gun that you purchased legally, sells it illegally, it gets on the street and kills my son and other sons."

Shira Goodman, executive director of Cease Fire PA, dismissed criticisms from Republicans and conservatives that the House Democrats' sit-in was a publicity stunt.

"I think it had a huge effect," Goodman said, citing an increase in the volume of calls and letters to elected officials lobbying for stiffer gun legislation. "They sat for 26 hours with C-SPAN turned off. ... They needed to do something to put this in front of people. It was heartfelt."

SAM NEWHOUSE

GAS PRICES

Cheap gas coming to an end in NJ?

New Jersey drivers (and Philadelphians who hit the pump after a trip to Total Wine), brace yourselves.

The state's notoriously cheap gas may soon come to an end, thanks to a measure passed by the state's Democrat-led Assembly, with support from Gov. Chris Christie.

The New Jersey Legislature on Tuesday OK'd a measure that would raise that state's gasoline tax by 23 cents per gallon starting Friday. The increase will fund road and bridge work throughout the state, NJ.com reported.

The plan, hastily approved after midnight, will cut the sales tax from 7 to 6 percent, and will reduce income tax on retirement income.

New Jersey's Senate will vote on the measure Thursday.

The state's average gas price falls around $2.10 per gallon, more than 30 cents cheaper than Pennsylvania's and New York's.

This increase would bump New Jersey's current gas tax from 14.5 cents per gallon to 37.5 cents.

Pennsylvania's gas tax is the highest in the nation, at 51.60 cents per gallon, according to the Tax Foundation, an independent tax policy research group.

ALEXIS SACHDEV

GETTY IMAGES

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Camden cabbie stabbed seven times in ride gone wrong

Police are looking for a suspect they say attacked a cab driver overnight Wednesday in Camden, New Jersey.

Juan Fortuna, a driver with 5 Star Cab, was robbed and stabbed seven times by a passenger he had picked up at a 7-Eleven in East Camden around midnight, NBC10 reported.

The passenger asked to be taken to a public housing complex at Front and State streets. When Fortuna arrived, the passenger demanded money.

"He was giving him the money, but he didn't pay attention to the money. He just all of a sudden started stabbing my brother," Fortuna's brother Jose told NBC10. "And from that point forward, my brother crashed into another car, and the neighbors started coming out and trying to help."

The housing complex GOOGLE MAPS

Apparently, a fare dispute sparked the attack.

Brandon Ramos, Fortuna's daughter's boyfriend, told Fox 29 the passenger had asked for change from a $50 bill.

Witnesses at the housing complex heard screams coming from inside the taxi, and ran out to help, they told NBC10. They saw the suspect exit the vehicle and flee, and found Fortuna in the front seat bleeding. He had been stabbed in his shoulder and chest.

A bystander took Fortuna, 50, to Cooper University Hospital, where he underwent surgery and was in stable condition.

ALEXIS SACHDEV

Video shows armed Pa. man shot on White House grounds

Newly released footage shows the takedown.

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Surveillance footage has been released showing Secret Service agents shooting a Pennsylvania man who entered White House grounds carrying a firearm last month.

The footage, recently shown in court, shows Jesse Olivieri, a 31-year-old man from Ashland, Pennsylvania, walking toward the White House on May 20 carrying a silver handgun. After repeatedly disobeying commands from agents to drop his weapon, officers shot Olivieri once near a security checkpoint, and arrested him.

"He was carrying a gun — a silver gun in clear sight — walked through the fence line," Larry Samples, who witnessed the shooting southwest of the White House, told NBC News in May.

A video still shows Jesse Olivieri approach the White House. PROVIDED

Watch the full video at metro.us

"They immediately tried to stop him and came up to him," Samples said. "[Authorities] yelled multiple times 'stop, stop, stop.' He kept ignoring them."

Olivieri was carrying a silver .22-caliber Ruger handgun, officials said.

After he was shot, the Secret Service said Olivieri told an officer that he "came here to shoot people."

Olivieri appeared in a wheelchair in federal court Monday, his lawyer requesting he be released to home detention because he had no criminal record and didn't point his weapon at anyone.

Judge Michael Harvey said Olivieri was a "danger to both himself and the community," NBC News reported.

The judge said Olivieri's actions were a "crime of violence involving law enforcement officers whose job it is to protect the perimeter of the White House."

Olivieri is charged with resisting officers with a dangerous weapon, an offense that carries up to 20 years in prison.

ALEXIS SACHDEV

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NORTH PHILLY DOESN'T NEED THE GUN RANGE TO START SELLING FIREARMS

With the nation still mourning one of the most tragic mass shootings in recent history, Philadelphia has a Trail of Tears of its own. You can't turn on the news without noticing the increased level of gun violence that has erupted over the past two months. Whether it is a homicide or self-injury inflicted upon by a toddler, the death toll is embarrassing.

But how does one part of our city's most vulnerable communities respond to this atrocity? Possibly with more guns. The Gun Range, located on 450 N. Percy Street in the Spring Garden area of North Philly, is petitioning to become a licensed firearms retailer.

But this out-of-touch desire from shooting range owner Yuri Zalzman isn't random. The area where his current business lies is around the corner from what used to be Colosimo's Gun Center. Colosimo's, which was shut down in 2009 by the feds, was notorious for selling guns to illegal buyers. It would not be a far off assertion to suggest that much of the high gun activity that made Philadelphia once known as "Killadelphia" nationwide had a lot to do with that store.

One would think that folks would learn that this isn't a smart idea, but money talks in a city of crime. On Wednesday, hearings to determine if the Gun Range would be approved began. If there was ever a time for a community to ban together to protect their streets, the time would be now.

"We cannot wait any longer to take action against gun violence, we need to be proactive instead of reactive," said Lauren Footman, Atlantic regional organizer for the Generation Progress Gun Violence Prevention Network. "The opening of this firearm retailer will only set us backward."

Footman, 24, has been mobilizing Philadelphians throughout the city to contact Council President Darrell Clarke, the councilman who represents the area where the Gun Range is located, to address the matter. Footman says Clarke previously released a statement around the time she helped stage a rally outside the range. Clarke's office has since said he didn't plan to say anything more about the business, unless he was ordered to testify by a judge.

Firearms for sale CHARLES MOSTOLLER

That is a disservice to the community, plain and simple. Philadelphia is currently one of the poorest major cities in America and is plagued by gun violence. The Gun Range is currently located by Simpson Mid-Town senior housing, which is less than 500 feet from the site. What in the hell is our city's elected officials doing to speak out against this? Philadelphia's Licenses & Inspections department has already denied the Gun Range the use of the site, but that's still not enough.

I tried to stop by and speak to the owner of the range. There was no answer as the sounds of constant gun shots banged so loudly that I was afraid to enter the facility. As I waited for my ride to pick me up, I saw a mother across the street cover her small child's ears. "We hear this every day," she said. "Hopefully, I live long enough not to hear it no more."

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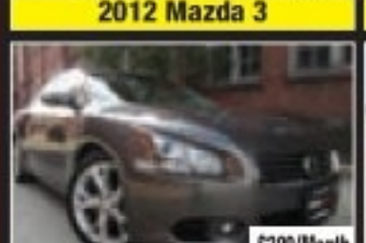
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Islamic State prime suspect after suicide bombers kill 42 at airport in Istanbul

The attack on Europe's third-busiest airport was the deadliest in a series of suicide bombings this year in Turkey, part of the U.S.-led coalition against Islamic State and struggling to contain spillover from neighboring Syria's war.

Turkish investigators pored over video footage and witness statements on Wednesday after three suspected Islamic State suicide bombers opened fire and blew themselves up in Istanbul's main airport, killing 42 people and wounding 239.

President Tayyip Erdogan said the attack should serve as a turning point in the global fight against terrorism, which he said had "no regard for faith or values." President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned it in separate phone calls with Erdogan, his office said.

Five Saudis and two Iraqis were among the dead, a Turkish official said. Citizens from China, Jordan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Iran and Ukraine were also among the 13 foreigners killed.

One attacker opened fire in the departures hall with an automatic rifle, sending passengers diving for cover and trying to flee, before all three blew themselves up in or around the arrivals hall a floor below, witnesses and officials said.

Video footage showed one of the attackers inside the terminal building being shot, apparently by a police officer, before falling to the ground as people scattered. The attacker then blew himself up around 20 seconds later.

"It's a jigsaw puzzle … The authorities are going through CCTV footage, witness statements," a Turkish official said.

The Dogan news agency said autopsies on the three bombers, whose torsos were ripped apart, had been completed and that they may have been foreign nationals, without citing its sources.

Broken ceiling panels littered the curb outside the arrivals section of the international terminal. Plates of glass had shattered, exposing the inside of the building, and electric cables dangled from the ceiling. Cleanup crews swept up debris and armed police patrolled as flights resumed. REUTERS

People carry the coffin of suicide attack victim Mohammad Eymen Demirci on Wednesday in Istanbul during his funeral a day after a suicide bombing and gun attack targeted Istanbul's Ataturk airport. GETTY IMAGES

"This attack, targeting innocent people, is a vile, planned terrorist act."

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim

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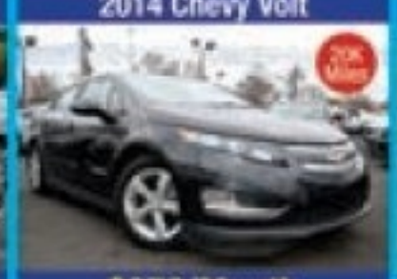
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North American leaders vow to boost trade despite threats

The three nations are member of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has vowed to renegotiate or scrap if he wins November's election.

Canada, the United States and Mexico on Wednesday vowed to deepen their economic ties, pushing back against anti-free-trade sentiment that has shifted political debate in the United States and Europe.

President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Enrique Peña Nieto, meeting at a "Three Amigos" summit in Ottawa, said an efficient North American economy was vital for creating good-paying, middle-class jobs.

"We will build upon this strong trilateral economic relationship, and further facilitate trade among our three countries, and improve the networks that allow us to produce products and services together," they said in a statement.

Trump says free trade has been disastrous, costing thousands of U.S. jobs and depressing wages.

Similar complaints were heard in Britain ahead of a surprise referendum vote last week to leave the European Union and its free trade area.

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, from left, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Barack Obama arrive for the North American Leaders Summit at the National Gallery of Canada on Wednesday in Ottawa. GETTY IMAGES

Obama and Peña Nieto stressed the importance of the relationship between the United States and Mexico, which has come under strain amid heated U.S. campaign rhetoric, and Obama invited the Mexican leader for a last visit to Washington before Obama's term ends in January. REUTERS

BRIEF

Biden outlines 'Moonshot' initiatives to fight cancer

Vice President Joseph Biden on Wednesday announced plans as part of the administration's "Cancer Moonshot" initiative, aimed at speeding development of treatments by cutting bureaucracy and easing collaboration between scientists, industry, patients and government.

Speaking at a cancer summit at Howard University in Washington, Biden made an impassioned plea for increased urgency in the fight against cancer. The event was part of a national day of action involving hundreds of researchers, patient advocates and data experts across the country.

Biden's son Beau died last year at age 46 from brain cancer, something Biden said helps inform his passion for the project.

"I believe we can do in the next five years what would normally take 10 years," he said. "Time matters, days matter, minutes matter."

Among proposals intended to bypass inefficiency at the federal level, he announced the formation of an Oncology Center of Excellence at the Food and Drug Administration, which will coordinate and review all of FDA cancer treatments. REUTERS

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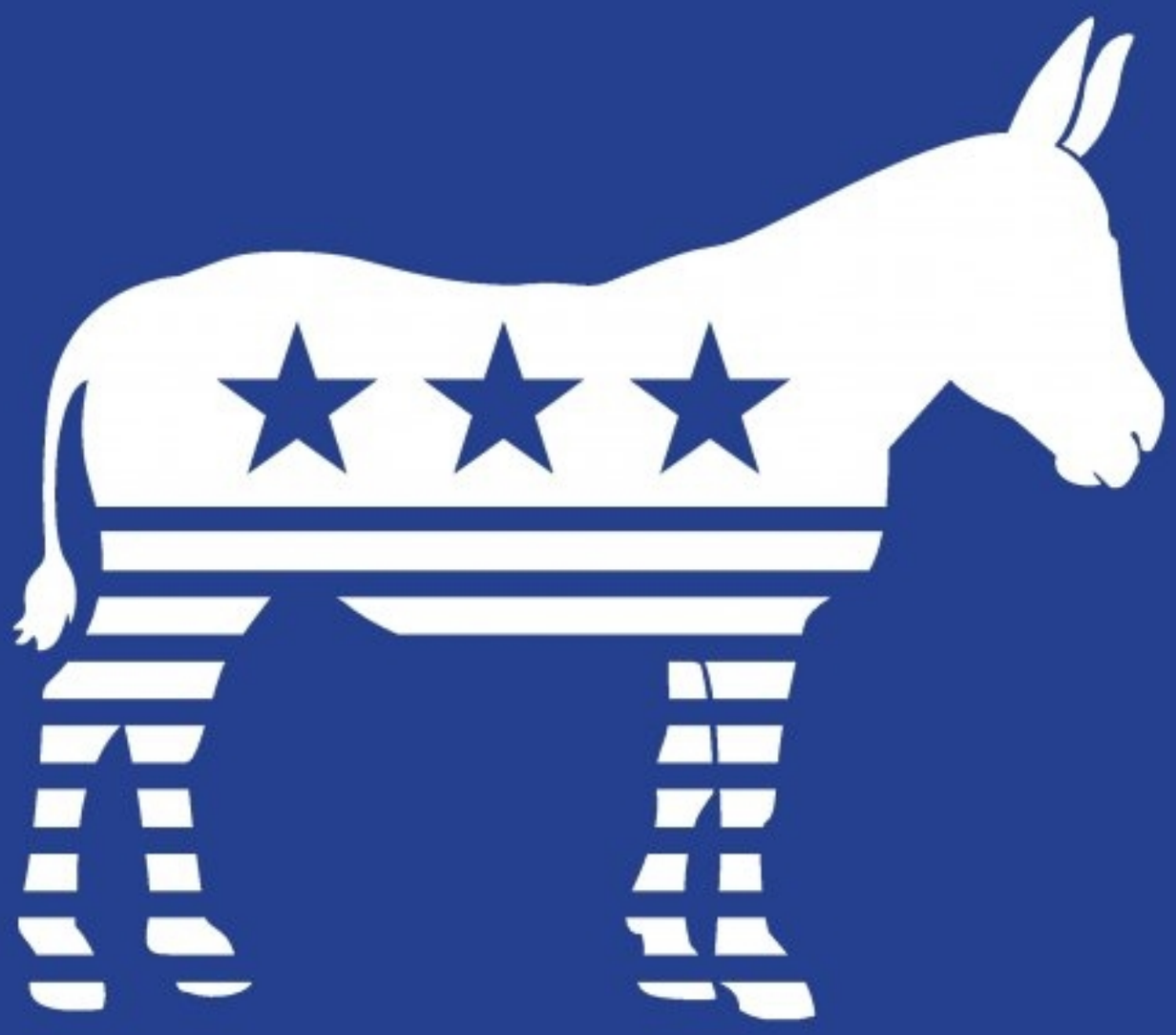

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REVOLUTIONARY DAYS

THE FOREMAN OPINION

TOM FOREMAN

With the Fourth of July looming, I find myself thinking about the origins of our country and once again I am struck by a thought: The Brits never really got it. Back in the 1700s they never quite understood why all those unruly Americans were so unhappy with their lot in life.

From the other side of the stormy Atlantic, that's understandable. The king and his cronies believed they were providing laws, leaders and security that no rubes in the woods could finagle. The British were the reason America was not being routinely plundered by other powerful nations. The Brits were the reason the colonists had status in the world, decent tea and powdered wigs. And yet the ungrateful upstarts dared to get their raccoon underwear in a twist over a few taxes? Harrumph!

But Americans wanted more than fancy snuff boxes and pomp. They wanted their opinions to matter. They wanted true representation. They wanted a government that listened to their concerns and responded as responsible leaders should. Yet their British overlords trudged on, dreaming up new taxes and laying the groundwork for the eventual rise of Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals.

You can no doubt see the parallels to our modern times. True, unlike the voteless days of long ago, millions of us actually went to the polls and helped the parties set up the choice we face in this election. But roiling the electorate — left, right and center — is a fundamental sense that Washington doesn't get it; that big-name Dems and Repubs are more intent on fighting each other than helping all of us. We ask for cooperation, and partisans lead us ever deeper into their dark woods of division. We ask for candidates we can believe in; and both parties push people who are deeply polarizing — not the mention the two least-trusted contenders in a generation. We ask for a new vision of what American government can be; and they give us the same tired, bitter, caustic infighting that voters despise. Again, millions of us helped make this happen, but the fingerprints of party bosses who want to win at all costs are nonetheless all over the outcome.

The English never fully grasped how unhappy the Americans were, and they thought every crisis would blow over. But they forgot a simple truth: Rulers who insist on having things their way with no regard for their subjects, don't remain rulers very long. And when those subjects decide to overturn the carriage, it doesn't much matter if the kings inside are sitting on the right or left.

BRIEF

Body parts wash ashore next to Rio Olympic venue ion

Parts of a mutilated body washed up on the sands of Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro police said, just yards from where beach volleyball athletes will compete in the upcoming Olympics.

The discovery, first reported to a newspaper by a Rio street vendor, is the latest to unnerve the city as it grapples with rising crime, a recession and exhausted state finances at a time when it hoped to be celebrating the first Olympics ever held in South America.

It was unclear Wednesday afternoon what conditions may have led to the mutilated body but a policeman standing guard by a security perimeter confirmed its existence to Reuters.

Police officials did not immediately return calls to their public affairs office for more details Wednesday afternoon. REUTERS

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(But, remember, he wasn't always an old ugly man - once, he was just ugly)

Facebook's political influence placed under a microscope

As the presidential campaign heats up, Facebook Inc. is going out of its way to show its neutrality — an increasingly urgent matter for the social network as evidence of its power continues to emerge.

Recent studies have shown the site has extraordinary influence. According to research scheduled to be published in August in the Journal of Communication, when people tagged their friends on Facebook in voting reminders, turnout increased by 15 to 24 percent.

During presidential primary elections this year, a Facebook reminder that informed people when their state's voter registration deadline was approaching and provided a link helped produce a surge of nearly 650,000 new voter registrations in California alone, according to Secretary of State Alex Padilla.

In the United Kingdom, a Facebook reminder days before the deadline to register to vote on whether the country should exit the European Union led to 186,000 people registering online to vote, according to the government.

"Generally, getting people out to vote could swing a national election," said Katherine Haenschen, a doctoral student at the University of Texas, Austin and author of the upcoming Journal of Communications study.

Facebook is eager to show that its political involvement is limited to seemingly neutral activities such as encouraging voting. The company this week released some of the guidelines that govern its all-important News Feed — the place most people see postings on Facebook — and has pushed back hard against recent allegations of political bias in its "Trending Topics" module.

Facebook posts increased voter registration this year. GETTY IMAGES

At the same time Facebook has embraced its role as a "new town hall" for politics, hosting events and helping candidates more effectively leverage their platforms, said Katie Harbath, Facebook's global politics and government outreach director

Her team helps candidates by answering their questions and providing advice, such as how to use Facebook Live and how to increase engagement on their pages.

Still, concerns about Facebook's role in shaping political attitudes are unlikely to abate anytime soon. REUTERS

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In "The Legend of Tarzan," Samuel L. Jackson (with Margot Robbie) plays George Washington Williams, an American who aids Alexander Skarsgard's vine-swinger on his latest adventure. WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Sam Jackson loves to watch Sam Jackson

The actor talks his unique role in "The Legend of Tarzan" and worrying about the world.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Samuel L. Jackson isn't shocked young people today may not have seen a Tarzan movie. The vine-swinger used to be a hot commodity, birthing numerous film franchises through the '20s and the '60s and played by the likes of Olympian Johnny Weissmuller and, the actor's favorite, Gordon Scott. After that, Tarzan thinned out, with only a few titles (1984's "Greystoke," Disney's take from 1999) over the last few decades. That may be due to the problematic nature of Edgar Rice Burroughs' original books, which teem with casual racism.

The new "The Legend of Tarzan" tries to fix this. For one thing, it features a strong black character — Jackson's George Washington Williams, loosely based on the real-life 19th-century Renaissance man — as one of the heroes aiding Alexander Skarsgard's towering, shirtless Tarzan.

The ever-prolific Oscar-nominee, 67, talks to us about not being afraid to speak his mind, even on the internet and the state of England right now.

The character you play is based on a real person. Tell us about him.

He has a lot of guilt about the part he played in fighting in the Indian Wars, then going to Mexico and becoming a freedom fighter of sorts. He was a bit of a rogue. He claimed to be a lot of things he wasn't. But he still had an impressive life. He wrote an interesting treatise on being black in America. Very, very interesting guy. And he never made it back here from Europe. That's why he's buried in Blackpool [England], I guess.

Well, England was always a lot more tolerant than us, even then.

That may change now with the Brexit vote. [Laughs]

You've spent a lot of time working in England, including on this film. Have you gotten a sense of how the country has changed to the point where they'd turn on immigrants?

It's hard to field that, because the country is so multicultural. When you're walking around, there's a whole lot of people in native garb. You can tell where people are from. You hear all these languages. To me, London looks more Muslim than most countries. But I can see the fear. It's the same fear that some people are mongering around here. There's been a great fear for a very long time, that native Britons are becoming extinct. The complexion of the country's changing. They're concerned about that. It's crazy.

GETTY IMAGES

A country becoming more diverse doesn't seem like a bad thing.

Right. Is that a problem or is that progress? Making America great again — I'm trying to figure out when that actually was. Was it the '50s? The '60s? It can't be the '60s because that's when the revolution started. So it must be between the '50s and the '30s.

It's a television version from the '50s that never existed.

Exactly. "Leave It to Beaver." Not Lucy and Ricky, because that wasn't good either.

You speak your mind a lot. Do you get in trouble for it since you're on social media?

People will vilify you online. But I don't care. I manage my own Twitter account. I laugh at people who say nasty things to me. Sometimes I just sic my Twitter followers on them. That's the easy way.

You do have a lot of followers. Donald Trump only has four million more, which is nothing to sneeze at.

If I combined all mine with my Weibo followers from China, I could probably kick his ass.

Some actors talk about not wanting to watch themselves onscreen. But you like it.

That is so much bulls—. Do you really believe that? Do you really believe the majority of actors who say "I don't love watching myself on screen" wouldn't do something else? Get another job. Why do you expect someone else to pay money to watch you if you don't like to watch you?

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Can Leslie Odom Jr. get us 'Hamilton' tickets?

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It's but a few days after Philadelphia native singer/actor Leslie Odom Jr. won a Best Actor Tony for his portrayal of Aaron Burr in "Hamilton," beating out the hip-hop Broadway musical's creator Lin-Manuel Miranda in the same category. He's also just reached the No. 1 spot on the iTunes Jazz chart with his newly released eponymous album. All this is happening right before he heads home to perform for Philly's July Fourth celebration, and leaves the hallowed "Hamilton" on July 9.

So the first thing we want to know from the 34-year-old Odom was … could he hook us up with some "Hamilton" tickets?

"I've got three weeks to get you in, and they're tough, man, but I know a guy," laughs Odom.

Mention how weird it must have been to beat out the Miranda, a man more brother than co-star, and Odom agrees it was a bittersweet victory. "Still, it was Team Hamilton. I was rooting for one of us and would've applauded if either of us won. Half of what I do as Burr comes from looking into Lin's eyes."

Leaving "Hamilton" then, as he'll do next week, is akin to having a security blanket ripped from under the longtime theater and television thespian, despite it being Odom's decision to move on from his six-days-a-week gig.

"It is scary," he admits. "'Hamilton' is the first job I've had with job security in my life. I'm not used to regularity. So, if anything is bittersweet, it's me leaving 'Hamilton.' I will miss these people and I will miss that role."

Luckily, Odom Jr. has the security of his job as a jazz crooner with "Leslie Odom Jr.," an album first produced four years ago, and given bright, additional orchestral touches with the compliance of his new record label, S-Curve.

"Everyone feels underrated … until they're not," he laughs. "I am so happy that people are catching on now." Odom mentions recording a handful of new jazz and show tunes for this album as well as gathering up material for his next album. "We're never about rushing, but this feels good," he adds. "It's taken me 15 years in this business to achieve success."

And if another "Hamilton"-size Broadway opportunity came his way, would he eschew it?

"No way."

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"The BFG"

Director: Steven Spielberg
Stars: Mark Rylance, Ruby Barnhill
Rating: PG

●●●●○

Oscar-winner Mark Rylance ("Bridge of Spies") gets digitized as the big friendly giant who befriends a comparatively tiny human (Ruby Barnhill) in Steven Spielberg's "The BFG." STORYTELLER DISTRIBUTION CO., LLC

See if this sounds familiar: In Steven Spielberg's "The BFG," a kid both curious and melancholic bonds with a creature both otherworldly and gentle. We live in a world of remakes and sequels and reboots, so it wouldn't be offside for the movies' most famous populist to try for another "E.T." But Spielberg hasn't piggybacked on a past career peak. Broad setup aside, "The BFG" is a very different beast — an outlier amongst both modern blockbusters and Spielberg's own career. It's the strangest, most stripped-down film he's ever made, even considering it's a CGI-fest with cutting edge tech that turns one of the world's finest thespians into a motion-capture behemoth.

That person is Mark Rylance, the Oscar-winner of Spielberg's "Bridge of Spies," who plays a big, friendly giant. Based on a Road Dahl children's classic that's only semi-grim, it has him nick young Sophie (Ruby Barnhill) from a London orphanage, whisking her away to a far-off realm ruled by even-bigger colossi, who like to feast upon tiny humans. But BFG doesn't play like that, and he slowly warms to her, and the two, as in the book, spend much of the film just chatting.

Dahl's book wouldn't seem a fit for Spielberg, the king of whirligig thingamajigs. Perhaps it isn't. And yet "The BFG" appeals to Spielberg's other major asset: his peerless capacity for deep feeling and unfailing empathy. Whatever happens (or doesn't happen) in "The BFG," it's all anchored by two lonely people forging a profound connection. Spielberg's favorite shot isn't of something exploding but a close-up of wide-eyed faces, the jaw slightly agape, the eyes lit up with wonder. Even digitized, the face of Mark Rylance is a marvel, as finely detailed as the real deal.

"The BFG" doesn't have enough plot to really explore the emotions, to put them to the test a la "E.T." But maybe it doesn't need to. It's a hangout movie in no rush to get anywhere, except when it does: The aimless vibe is abruptly and amusingly ruined by a surprising third act, straight from the book, that both delights with its weirdness (and its sight of actual farting corgis) and nearly sabotages the gentle, funny-sad groove.

But that groove is singular and genuine and not to be undervalued. Spielberg's last CGI film, the slight though enjoyable "The Adventures of Tintin," felt like a technical exercise — a kid playing with his new toys. Spielberg feels it this time. Barnhill aside, it's all digital, fake. Yet it feels powerfully and unmistakably human. MATT PRIGGE

"The Legend of Tarzan"

Director: David Yates
Stars: Alexander Skarsgard, Margot Robbie
Rating: PG-13

●●○○○

Hey girl. Alexander Skarsgard shows why he was cast in "The Legend of Tarzan." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Well, at least it's not another origin story. "The Legend of Tarzan" is mainly notable for what it's not, namely another lugubrious, lumbering introduction, this time to the why of its ripped vine-swinger with an aversion to clothes that aren't a tattered loincloth. Instead it's just a random adventure, clocking in under two hours, that throws us into what could be the fourth or fifth entry in a series.

And yet here's the rub: Who in 2016 remembers Tarzan except as a vague concept? Like the Lone Ranger, he's a cultural commodity that's been trampled by history, largely absent from the modern screen. He's one figure who might need a splashy introduction, hipping us to his start as an aristo child born in the jungle, orphaned and raised by people dressed as apes.

Reviving him is a fool's errand, and "The Legend of Tarzan" buckles under the strain while trying to give us a rip-roaring romp. Ostensibly it's a revisionist reboot, starting after Tarzan — aka John Clayton III, Lord Greystoke, played by the massively tall Alexander Skarsgard — has left the thickets of the Congo to assume his role in stuffy English society. He's lured back through a painfully convoluted international ruse, at which point he's quick to shed his moneyed duds, bro back down with his old CGI animal friends (and frenemies) and rescue his beloved Jane (Margot Robbie) once she's captured by a hissable Belgian baddie (Christoph Waltz).

But we're rarely allowed to sit back and munch on our popcorn. Every time "Tarzan" gets into a groove, viewers are hurled back into an awkwardly timed flashback to fill them in on the backstory they may not have Googled beforehand. Stuttering through a slight adventure it keeps interrupting, it bogs itself down further by tackling an old text that's easily tagged as "problematic." Edgar Rice Burroughs' novels teem with casual old-school racism, and the very idea is wobbly: an imperialist fantasy in which the king of the African wilds, the lord of the apes is a strapping white guy.

And so "Tarzan" struggles to fix a dodgy source. Robbie's Jane isn't a babe with a thing for monosyllabic studs but a proto-feminist firecracker — who still spends much of the movie as a damsel in distress. Samuel L. Jackson, as real-life race pioneer George Washington Williams, scampers about with Tarzan — but he's there as a black sidekick. The plot involves the busting of a European slave trade, but it's no more than a backdrop. To make a woke "Tarzan" might involve making something that's not "Tarzan." Or having a budget well under $180 million. MP

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Yes, the movie with Paul Dano hanging with the undead Daniel Radcliffe is real. A24

"Swiss Army Man"

Director: Daniels
Stars: Paul Dano, Daniel Radcliffe
Rating: R

●●●●○

Originality can be overrated. It's safe to say there's nothing on this Earth remotely like "Swiss Army Man," unless there are other Sundance shockers in which Daniel Radcliffe plays a farting corpse with an erection that doubles as a handy compass. But is ingenuity enough? Should we be seduced by something only because literally no one has ever put it on a screen before? Can a movie subsist on Harry Potter gas and gizmo-weens alone?

But first-time feature directors Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert — jointly known simply as "Daniels" — have much, much more up their sleeves. Paul Dano plays Hank, a suicidal sad sack who gains a new lease on life when he happens upon a stiff (Radcliffe). It's no ordinary corpse. Nicknamed Manny, he seems to be coming back to life, starting with a gastrointestinal apocalypse. He has other powers: Along with his aforementioned literal divining rod, he can shoot objects (usually phallic) from his mouth or be used as a Jet Ski propelled by his explosive flatulence. Eventually he can even talk.

"Swiss Army Man" never lets up, never gets tired, keeps bombarding you with "what maniac thinks this stuff up?" nuttiness. But look closely and there's a strong foundation. Daniels mash lowbrow with highbrow, rooting their scatological antics in a combination of deep feeling and even deeper existential dread. As Hank and Manny bond, their chats turn to the ridiculousness of society, manners, "Jurassic Park," our disgusting bodies and existence itself. This is a wild ride, often as bumpy as the one Hank takes while astride a farting Manny, as he skips across the ocean like a hurled rock. But it's going somewhere. MATT PRIGGE

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Star Spangled Weekend

Heading down the shore for July 4th? We salute you, and fine, maybe we're a little jealous. But at the same time, that holiday traffic is real, and the beach isn't going anywhere. Luckily, Philly has plenty going on this weekend thanks to the annual Wawa Welcome America! festival. Did we mention it's all free? Because it totally is.

MONICA WEYMOUTH

Philly goes to Hollywood

These family-friendly outdoor screenings are exactly what midsummer evenings call for. If you missed "Rocky" on the Art Museum steps last night, hit up Penn's Landing tonight for Nicolas Cage in "National Treasure" — which has scenes shot in Philly — then swing over to Northern Liberties on Friday at dusk for dose of kid-favorite "Minions" at Schmidt's Commons.

Philadelphia Orchestra Neighborhood Concert

You probably don't see the world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra as often as you should—and that's OK, because none of us do. But on Friday night, there's really no excuse. Accessible for the whole family, this open-air performance at Penn's Landing is followed by fireworks over the river.

Historic Philadelphia Block Party

On Sunday, Market Street between 5th and 6th streets will shut down to feature seven hours of live music, dance performances and DJs. Be sure to bring the kids—a special zone for little ones includes face painters, balloon artists and the time-tested pièce de résistance: a truck courtesy of the Philadelphia Fire Department.

Party on the Parkway

This year, the annual all-day Fourth of July party features performances by Leslie Odom Jr. of Hamilton, Yazz the Greatest, Leon Bridges, the Sounds of Philadelphia Orchestra, Philly Pops and more. DJ Biz Markie hosts, and the evening wraps up with the finest fireworks in all the land. In other words: Time to reconnect with your Fairmount friends who have roof decks.

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Put your phone down and get ready to laugh

Comedian Pat House opens up for Sebastian Maniscalco at the Borgata this weekend.

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Pat House began his comedy career in Philly's open mic scene. JENNIFER LOGUE

Don't let comedian Pat House's average joe routine fool you. The 30-year-old funny man, who got his start at Philly open mics, boasts an impressive list of accomplishments in his 10-year career thus far, which includes sharing the stage with comedic greats like Dave Attell, Greg Girlado, Marc Maron and Andrew Dice Clay. He even took home second place in Howard Stern's "Kill or be Killed" competition. This weekend, he opens for Sebastian Maniscalco at the Borgata in Atlantic City and chatted with us about awkward fan encounters and the one thing comedy fans should never do.

So how did you get started doing comedy?
I started doing open mics when I was a sophomore at Temple. And I went from bar open mic to bar open mic just trying out material. I started out at the Laff House, which is no more, but Helium has been my comedy home for the last 10 years.

What initially inspired you?
I was a fan of comedy. I watched a lot of it in high school and just got into it — started trying out jokes. It just snowballed from there.

Where do you draw inspiration for your routines?
I like to think my act is relatable to all sorts of people. I talk about dating, jobs, family, interactions with people. Everyday life throws stuff at you. We've all had crappy jobs, crazy things in our family that have happened …

Who would you say are your comedy heroes?
David Attell was a big influence in the beginning. Tom Segura who I tour with a lot, too. I could name a million names. There are so many great comics out there.

How do you measure a successful show?
If the audience laughs at everything I say at the appropriate spots. I like when people approach me after a show and say they liked a particular bit or when they say they can relate to something. You're forming a bond with strangers and it's a cool feeling to bring people together like that.

What has been your most awkward fan encounter?
I've definitely had a couple. There are some strange people that approach you after a show. One guy in St. Louis asked why I needed a business card and I told him, "In case people think I'm funny and want to keep in touch." He replies, "Yeah but why does a comedian need a business card?" Then he stands there awkwardly, stares at me and eventually takes one. [laughs] I've had people tell me I think you're OK but I still won't buy your CD. Then strangers try to critique you. "Have you thought about doing this?" And I'm like, "Nope."

Have any etiquette tips for someone attending a comedy show for the first time?
Sit down, shut up and don't look at your cellphone. It's really rude when I look in the audience and see your face lit up by your cellphone. Why pay for a ticket if you're not even here?

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Best meal under $10?

El Rey (*2013 Chestnut St., 215-563-3330*) for the most reasonable meals and of course **Shake Shack** (*2000 Sansom St., 215-809-1742*) because a Shackburger and fries go a long way!

Best hidden foodie gem?

An out-of-the-way gem that I always seem to have to remind myself of is tucked up in South Philly and called **The Saloon** (*750 S. Seventh St., 215-627-1811*). I love the calamari and peas and the braciola. It's classic old world Italian, which I always love and appreciate. In Ambler, Ristorante **San Marco** (*504 N. Bethlehem Pike, 215-654-5000*) is another hidden gem, with owners Josephine and Leo, who have their own garden on the property for the freshest ingredients along with a great little piano bar.

Place you always take or recommend for out-of-towners?

If they have time and only after experiencing the many awesome restaurants in Center City, I take out-of-towners on a relaxing ride to Bucks County along the Delaware River. They are amazed at the beauty of the area and unique experiences. Of course, I'm including my own **Marsha Brown Creole Restaurant** in charming New Hope (*15 S. Main St., 215-862-7044*).

Go-to date spot?

I love the **Kimmel Center** (*300 S. Broad St., 215-670-2300*) or Keswick Theatre (*291 N. Keswick Ave., 215-572-7650*) in Glenside for a nice evening out.

Best place to catch up with friends?

If it's a large group of friends, **Estia** in Center City (*1405 Locust St., 215- 735-7700*) is fresh authentic Greek/Mediterranean menu. If you want it to be more intimate, upstairs at **The Dandelion** (*124 S. 18th St., 215-558-2500*) is always a fun and delicious experience with friends.

The best dessert you ever had in Philly?

It goes without saying that **Termini's** (*1523 S. Eighth St., 215-334-1816*) is an institution in Philadelphia, so the cannoli is a must-have dessert. It's the perfect blend of crunch and cream, always freshly made. The best pound cake ever is at **Stock's Bakery** (*2614 E. Lehigh Ave., 215-634-7344*) because it reminds me so much of the one my grandmother baked. It's really addictive — not too sweet, but amazing in every way.

Ruth's Chris Steak House is located at 1800 Market St. in Philadelphia.

JENNIFER LOGUE

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HOT PLATE

Hai Street's sushi burrito

Jennifer Logue eats her way through Philadelphia.
jennifer.logue@metro.us

The Slammin' Salmon at Hai Street Kitchen JENNIFER LOGUE

Deciding where I'm going to eat lunch is probably the most fun decision I'll make during any given workday. It comes with a catch, however. While getting adventurous sounds like a great idea, suffering a food coma in the middle of the afternoon push is not ideal. When I heard that Hai Street Kitchen opened a location at Liberty Place a few weeks ago, I was intrigued and decided it was about time to give the famed sushi burrito a whirl. But would it live up to the hype?

Sure, it combines two of the most delicious culinary inventions in the world — sushi and burritos — but it could either be lip-smacking delicious or tummy-clenching disgusting.

I decided to dive right in with the Slammin' Salmon, which features tataki-style salmon, spicy gochujang sauce, romaine, fresh cucumber, pickled jicama and red cabbage rolled inside a shell of white rice and seaweed nori.

The verdict? Fresh, light, flavorful and satiating. The tanginess of the gochujang sauce combined with the juicy crunch of the pickled jicama simply shouts summer. What's more, they don't skimp on the salmon so you can rest assured your sushi burrito will pack a powerful protein punch. I think I've finally found a healthy lunch alternative that's not a salad! Thanks, Hai Street. I'd give you two thumbs up if I wasn't so busy eating. Looks like my big decision tomorrow will be which sushi burrito to try next.

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YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

OUTDOOR DRINKING

Parks on Tap

Through July 4
Thursday, 5 p.m.-10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 1 p.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday noon-10 p.m.
Schuylkill Banks at Walnut Street Bridge
Free
parksontap.com
Parks on Tap begins this week. The mobile beer garden sets up camp in 14 parks throughout summer, starting with a pop-up along the Schuylkill Banks. The location provides the perfect setting to enjoy craft beers, wine and a menu of grab-and-go nibbles along the riverside. Ample seating will be provided, along with an itinerary of special activities all weekend. Look out for a showing of "Dirty Dancing" on June 30, along with riverboat tours scheduled to depart at 5:30 and 7 p.m. the same night.

WAWA WELCOME AMERICA

Wawa Hoagie Day

June 30, noon to 5 p.m.
Independence Visitor Center
Independence Mall
Free
welcomeamerica.com
To kick off its full weekend of Fourth of July festivities, Wawa Welcome America hosts the 24th annual and much-loved Hoagie Day at Independence Mall. Show up hungry. Five tons of hoagies will be handed out free, courtesy of Wawa. For the full list of Wawa Welcome America activities, visit welcomeamerica.com.

Free Museum Days

June 30-July 3
Various locations
welcomeamerica.com
To celebrate Fourth of July weekend, several museums in Philly open their doors free on select days as part of Wawa Welcome America. On June 30 and July 2, enjoy free admission to the National Constitution Center; browse the galleries in the African-American Museum in Philadelphia on July 1; and get your fill of French Impressionist and Postimpressionist paintings at the Barnes Foundation on July 3.

MUSIC

Free Concerts

July 1-3, various times
Various locations
welcomeamerica.com
Leading up to the Party on the Parkway on July Fourth, Wawa Welcome America hosts three lower-key free musical affairs. At Penn's Landing, enjoy patriotic performances from the Philadelphia Orchestra and The United States Army Band on July 1 and 2, respectively. Both shows start at 8 p.m. and end with a fireworks display over the Delaware at 9:30. On July 3, head to Independence Hall at 8 p.m. to hear the 65-piece Philly Pops orchestra, featuring tunes from Broadway and opera stars Allison Blackwell and Justin Hopkins.

Historic Philadelphia Block Party

July 3, 1 p.m.-8 p.m.
Independence Hall
Fifth and Chestnut streets
Free
welcomeamerica.com
For seven full hours Sunday, the streets in front of Independence Hall play home to the first Historic Philadelphia Block Party. Bring the kids for a family-friendly day of live entertainment, food, games and appearances by Revolution-era citizens, who, sadly won't be rapping a la "Hamilton."

GILES CLEMENT

MUSIC

Ron Gallo

July 2, 8 p.m.
Johnny Brenda's
1201 Frankford Ave.
$10-$12, ticketfly.com
Dynamic local musician Ron Gallo left Philly last year to spread his wings in Nashville. He's back for the first time Saturday to show us what he's been up to: namely releasing an EP showcasing music from his upcoming full-length "Heavy Meta." The work finds the lithe, curly-haired singer-songwriter exploring garage rock territory, crooning about psycho girlfriends and more overtop energetic guitar riffs. Don't miss this chance to see him in an intimate, local venue. He's going to be blowing up soon.

Civil Twilight

June 30, 8 p.m.
Foundry at Fillmore Philly
29 E. Allen St.
$16
ticketmaster.com
Radio 104.5 hosts a performance by Civil Twilight, a four-piece rock group out of Cape Town, South Africa. The band is in the beginning stages of a stateside tour, bringing an alt-rock sound that's been compared to acts like Muse and the Police to stops from here to Missouri. For a taste of what you're in for, check out their just-released live album "Live From New York."

Steely Dan

July 3, 7 p.m.
BB&T Pavilion
1 Harbour Blvd., Camden
$25-$140
concerts.livenation.com
Seventies jazz-rock outfit Steely Dan are on the road again, this time bringing along blue-eyed soul crooner Steve Winwood for a tour they're calling "The Dan Who Knew Too Much." Neither has much new to promote, except for a catalog of classics that'll have dads across Philly swaying through Monday morning.

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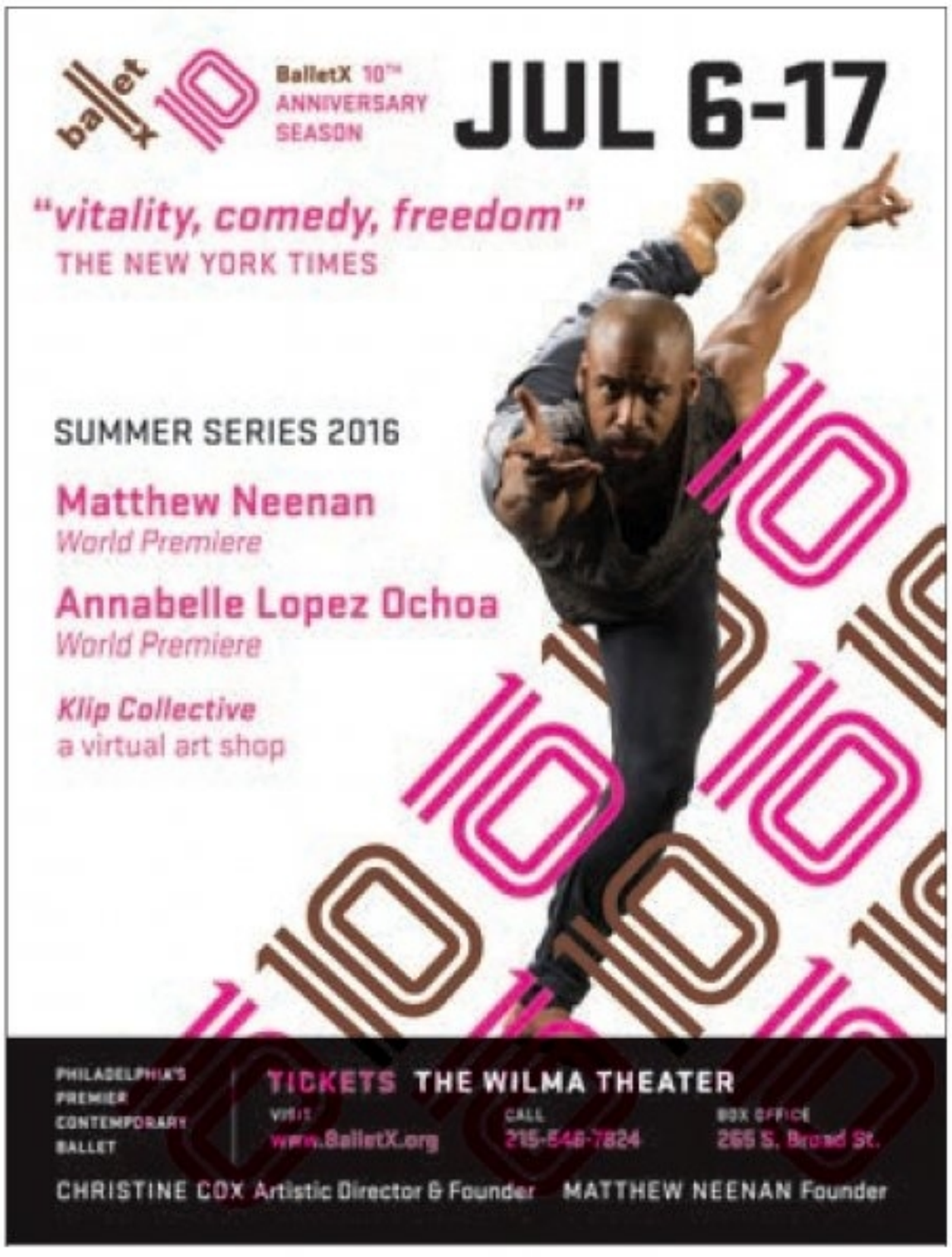

The greatest outdoors

The best national parks to see this summer — happy birthday, National Parks Service!

Fodor's Travel

Zion National Park GETTY IMAGES

With the centennial of the National Park Service this summer, 2016 is the year to stay local and explore America. Plan a trip for Aug. 25-28 when park entrance fees are waived all day in honor of Founder's Day, the National Park Service's birthday.

Crater Lake National Park

For pure visual splendor, it's hard to beat Crater Lake's brilliant blue water and 2,000-foot cliffs. The 5-mile lake is the clearest in the U.S., and Oregon's pristine air offers unobstructed views of up to 100 miles. The world-class hiking keeps active visitors occupied with more than 100 miles of trails; don't miss the 2.5-mile gradual walk up the Mount Scott Trail, the park's high point.

Insider tip: From July to mid-September, park rangers lead a daily boat tour on Crater Lake. The view from the water is just as dazzling as from the road or trail.

Acadia National Park

It may be one of the smaller national parks, but Acadia has an amazingly diverse landscape, from sandy beaches to hardwood forests to granite peaks. The park encompasses most of Mount Desert Island and some of the smaller surrounding islands. The rugged, rocky coastline has become synonymous with summertime in Maine — an absolute must-visit on the Atlantic coast.

Insider tip: Cycling is not permitted on any of the park trails, and the scenic Park Loop Road — the main artery for cars — is generally too congested for bike traffic. Instead, ride some (or all) of the 45 miles of carriage roads that wind through the heart of the park. Originally built between 1915 and 1933 by John D. Rockefeller Jr., the crushed-rock surface paths are ideal for biking.

Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton, the highest peak in the rugged Teton Range, rises 13,775 feet above the Jackson Hole valley floor in Wyoming. Grand Teton National Park's alpine terrain, including a dozen small glaciers, the Snake River, various streams and numerous crystalline lakes like the 15-mile-long Jackson Lake, provides visitors a welcome reprieve from the heat of summer. Although Grand Teton is only 10 miles south of Yellowstone National Park, it remains remarkably less crowded.

Insider tip: The six campgrounds in the park are first-come, first-serve. Steer clear during peak times or if you have the experience (and bear-proof canisters), consider backcountry camping. Alternatively, Grand Teton has several excellent lodging facilities ranging from cabins to resort hotels located inside the park.

Kenai Fjords National Park

Located 2.5 hours from Anchorage on the stunning Kenai Peninsula, Kenai Fjords National Park is an Ice Age dreamscape: Think pristine water, giant icebergs and seemingly endless glaciers. In the summer, long daylight hours and mild temperatures in the 50s and 60s are ideal conditions to try the park's many adventurous activities like kayaking, hiking and stand-up paddleboarding. For those interested in a little less action, "flightseeing" by plane is Alaska's quintessential way to take in the scenery, or try a boat cruise among the icebergs.

Insider tip: The Alaskan wilderness is about as wild as it gets; in fact, the only part of Kenai Fjords National Park accessible by road is Exit Glacier. While breathtaking in its own right (and most people's only chance to come face-to-face-with a glacier), there is much more to see and do in Kenai Fjords. Hire an outfitter to tap into the park's abundant offerings.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Set in the shadow of 14,505-foot Mount Whitney (the highest summit in the contiguous United States), California's Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are actually two parks administered as one. The combined park is a backpacker's dream, with more than 850 miles of remote trails through extensive glacial canyons and old-growth forests, home to giant sequoia trees standing over 250 feet tall. Unlike the rest of the Sierra Nevada, summer temperatures in the sequoia groves remain pleasantly below 90.

Insider tip: General Sherman Tree, located at the north end of Giant Forest, is the world's largest tree at 274.9 feet tall and 78.5 feet in circumference and accessible by an easy half-mile trail.

Zion National Park

In the Southwest, the hot summer weather is perfect for hiking the river at the base of Utah's Zion National Park. The trail through the upper canyon, known as The Narrows, is literally the river — trekkers walk, wade and swim through the 16-mile route, penned in on both sides by 2,000-foot vertical sandstone walls. The hike is strenuous but well worth the effort for the unique experience and awe-inspiring scenery.

Insider tip: The Utah Symphony partnered with the Utah Office of Tourism to offer free concerts at the state's five national parks in mid-August. The symphony will perform at Zion on Aug. 16 at 8 p.m. at the O.C. Tanner Amphitheatre, located just outside the south entry gate in Springdale.

Shenandoah National Park

Located just 75 miles from Washington D.C., Shenandoah National Park in Virginia is a popular fall foliage destination. But the park is an equally viable escape in the summer, when the Blue Ridge Mountains keep the temperatures as much as 10 degrees cooler than in the valley. And unlike in the fall, this is not the time to cruise along scenic Skyline Drive in your car. Get out and hike to one of the park's dozen waterfalls, or camp under an open sky — almost all of Shenandoah's 196,000 gorgeous acres are open to backcountry camping.

Insider tip: Shenandoah has more than 500 miles of trails. Check out the National Park Foundation's free Owner's Guide, available online.

Eagles franchise has had some very awesome, memorable head coaches

Buddy Ryan, Andy Reid, Dick Vermeil and former pro baseball player Greasy Neale have led the Birds to glory.

LUKE MILLER
@LukeFM7
sports@metro.us

It was as much about the moments as the big picture, and from fake kneel downs to referencing the "man in France," Buddy never disappointed. GETTY IMAGES

Buddy Ryan's passing proffers an opportunity to reflect on the best moments he and other champions in Eagles coaching history have given us, the fans. Here's a look back:

Andy Reid

We'll move from present to past, and that means beginning with the most familiar figure on this list and the longest-tenured coach in Eagles history by a long shot. Big Red took over after some lean years, tied his future to Donovan McNabb and the defensive genius of Jim Johnson. He rode a long wave of success. Starting in his third season in charge, the Eagles appeared in four straight NFC championship games and in 2005 finally broke through to earn the second Super Bowl appearance in club history.

While a run that includes six Division Championships in 10 years and zero Super Bowl victories will always have memories of heartbreak, Reid, always the first to accept blame for defeat, remains responsible for the last playoff victory the Eagles recorded.

Buddy Ryan

By the time he arrived in Philadelphia for his first head coaching gig, Ryan had already been a member of the coaching staff for two of the most famous teams in NFL history: the 1968 Jets and 1985 Bears. It was with the Super Bowl Champion Bears that he perfected his "46" defensive scheme, intent on blitzing, pressuring and harassing quarterbacks.

He proved as talented at picking defenders as he was at putting them in the right places. He brought Seth Joyner, Clyde Simmons, Jerome Brown and Eric Allen to Philadelphia around centerpiece Reggie White. Upon arrival he transformed the Eagles into the most feared defensive unit in the game, and the predatory attitude would leave its hallmarks in the most famous Eagles games of the era: the likes of the Bounty Bowls and the Body Bag Game.

Dick Vermeil

After the Eagles won the 1960 NFL Championship, they struggled in futility for the better part of two decades before Vermiel came to town in 1976. By 1978 they had a winning record and playoff appearance, by 1980 they had made the Super Bowl at the expense of the division bully, Dallas.

In contrast to Buddy's years, Vermeil's team is remembered for the exploits of offensive stars Ron Jaworski, Wilbert Montgomery and Harold Carmichael. His success in Philadelphia was short-lived; by 1982 the Eagles were 3-6 after a strike-shortened season and Vermeil was retiring from coaching at 46.

Buck Shaw

The coach of the last Eagles team to win an NFL championship, Shaw had a career "playoff" record of 1-0. It was enough. Shaw, like many others on this list, transformed a bad team into a winner. He did so by acquiring Norm Van Brocklin, proving a quarterback was as vital and a good quarterback as highly sought after six decades ago as today.

Unlike Vermeil, Ryan and Reid, who started their NFL head coaching careers with the Eagles, Shaw ended a long career in college and pro football by retiring at the pinnacle of the sport with Philadelphia.

Greasy Neale

Neale actually had a playing career in Philadelphia before becoming the Eagles' head coach — as a Phillie. If you like two-sport athletes, feast your eyes on a man who played baseball, played professional football and coached college football at the same time.

He had quite some success too — Neale was the right fielder for the 1919 Cincinnati Reds team that won the World Series over the infamous Black Sox.

Neale ushered in a new era of Eagles football. In the eight years the franchise existed before Neale signed on they won 19 games and lost 65. Over the next nine years Neale and his players won 63 games and two NFL championships in 1948 and 1949. He is — fittingly — in more than one Hall of Fame. Neale is enshrined in the NFL and College Football Halls of Fame.

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, by public auction on **July 19, 2016 at 12:00 pm** via The Compass Self Storage located at: **1300 Belmont Ave Philadelphia, PA 19104**

1022 Victor Snyder • 1067 Baelisha Echevarria • 1069 JOHNSON, ANGIA • 1062 TERRANCE JENKINS • 1080 Cureton-Allen, Sharia • 1081 KEVIN DAVIS
2012 DAVID ENNIS • 2016 Thompson, Kathy • 2022 Sampson, Kia • 2108 Banton, Katrina • 2147 Wright, Carlton • 2149 HENRIETTA HARRELL
2154 Brian Mallory • 2166 W Lawrence, Mason • 2202 Ross, Mark • 2217 Sharmaine Booker Hawkins • 2229 Tahirah Haywood • 3001 Lawrence Stokes
3026 Discovery Charter School • 3076 Charles Goods • 4078 Booker, Tiphanie • 4090 Tamika Rice • 4094 LittleJohn, Melissa • 4097 MARVIN CARTER
6001 Stokes, Lawrence • 6002 Discovery Charter School • 6006 Baker, Douglas • 6002 Jordan, Samuel • 6023 Purnell, Leonard • 6037 Ingram, Allen
6067 Johnson, Shanola • 6066 Benson, Arthur • 6075 Mekonen, Abyo • 6081 Discovery Charter School • 7017 Caleb, Arita • 7023 Cropper, Bytashia
7068 RASHID JONES • 7097 Butler, Gladys • 8107 Johnson, Tanya • 8160 Peck, Rhonda • 21011 Abdulmumin, Hasan • 807 SAMUEL WHITELY
803 Pollard, Micheal • 815 Cummings, Sharita • 826 Wallace, Tiffany • 804 Tinsley, Vanessa • 809 Ross Contractors LLC

The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Compass Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, by public auction on **July 19, 2016 at 10:00 am** via The Compass Self Storage located at: **12 E. Oregon Ave Philadelphia, PA 19148**

1122 Holly Shaw • 1157 Christal Puckerin
1350 Christine Norberg • 1401 Thomas Mallery Jr.
1528 Frances McKnight • 1748 Lynna Haynes
2000 Randy Stewart • 2169 Nicholas Marshall
2322 Alicia Grant • 2458 Maria Amato • 2622 Tiffany Johnson

The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Compass Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 777 Mayfair Street to satisfy a lien on JULY 5, 2016 at approx. 11:30 AM at www.storagetreasures.com

1207 Ebenezer Welsh Jr • 1425 Joyce Gatling • 2131 Emneris Domenech
2202 Lee, Edmund Pak Kuen • 2307 Malinda Rambert • 2318 Yvette Taylor
2607 Shinholster, Keegan • 2627 Barbara Ann Williams • 3118 Ashley Anne Kunkle
3415 Reid, John G • 4118 Dina Marie Wright • 4123 Patricia Hill
4134 June K Coleman • 4628 Ivin A Baldwin • 5315 Demaris Bryant • 5517 Feliciano Pagan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below on **July 15, 2016** at **2:00 PM** located at **12005 Roosevelt Blvd. Philadelphia, Pa 19154, Ph: 215-856-0835**.

Unit 1222 Kathleen Brown (furniture),
J1 Jack Montgomery (Bed, boxes, chairs),
B13 Ashraf Abuhanak (Furniture),
1204 Latoya McCollough (household items)

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **July 15, 2016** at **2:00PM** at the Extra Space Storage facility located at: **6204 Oxford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111, 215-744-1563.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.

B130 An Apple A Day Sakeia C. Leggett (Furniture & Clothes),
B132 Arlenia Paulino (Household Items),
B141 Leonardo Padilla (Furniture),
G103 David J. Ross (Generator, Chipper, Tools, Furniture).

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasure.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder take possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: **1553 Grant Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19115, 215-464-3913. JULY 15, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.**

233 - Rosemary L Friel (household), 409 - Hakiem L Anderson (household, furniture), 245 - Shahida Jefferson (household, clothes)

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

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Convertible — $181/Month

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Remote Start — $245/Month

2013 NISSAN ROGUE

Rear View Cam — $277/Month

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Like New — $213/Month

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Loaded! — $359/Month

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Sun Roof — $277/Month

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Low Mileage — $345/Month

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Tech Package — $294/Month

2012 RAM 1500 LARAMIE

Loaded! — $449/Month

2013 BMW 740LI XDRIVE

Tech Package — $599/Month

2012 MERCEDES GLX350

Navigation — $379/Month

2014 FORD ESCAPE

SYNC System — $213/Month

2011 BMW 328I XDRIVE

Moon Roof — $299/Month

2013 FORD EXPLORER XLT

3rd Row — $294/Month

2012 TOYOTA CAMRY

Bluetooth — $184/Month

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Crew Cab — $149/Month

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76ers linked to Barnes, Crabbe, Waiters and others

Philly is expected to be one of the most active teams in free agency when it begins Friday.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
sports@metro.us

With the NBA free agency period beginning on Friday, word is beginning to trickle out among several national reporters on just how Bryan Colangelo and the Sixers are looking to spend their healthy amount of cap space this summer.

On Wednesday, ESPN's Marc Stein reported that the Sixers are intending to make a serious push for restricted free agent guard Harrison Barnes of the Golden State Warriors. Barnes averaged 11.7 points, 4.9 rebounds and 1.8 assists while shooting 38 percent from beyond the arc last season.

Barnes' asking price would likely be for a max contract, which equates to four years, $94 million. The Warriors are said to be making Barnes a "top priority" this summer if they're unable to lure free agent forward Kevin Durant away from the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Other free agents the Sixers have been linked to are guards Allen Crabbe of the Portland Trail Blazers, Dion Waiters of the Oklahoma City Thunder and Courtney Lee of the Charlotte Hornets.

Crabbe would fit in nicely with the Sixers' developing young core at shooting guard. He averaged 10.3 points, 2.7 rebounds and 1.2 assists on 39 percent shooting from three-point range. The team has stated their desire to surround No. 1 pick Ben Simmons with shooters and Crabbe fits the bill.

Philly native and former No. 4 pick Dion Waiters has ultimately been a disappointment in his four-year NBA career up to this point. His averages of 9.8 points, 2.6 rebounds and 2.0 assists were all among the lowest of his career with the Thunder last season.

Lee is the veteran of this free agent group of guards and would immediately fill three needs — veteran leadership, shooting and defense. In his eight-year NBA career, Lee has career averages of 9.6 points, 2.6 rebounds and 1.6 assists on 38 percent shooting from the outside. He's been on six NBA teams (Grizzlies, Rockets, Celtics, Magic, Nets, Hornets) in his career and would bring a veteran perspective to the locker room that the team doesn't currently have.

Crabbe, Waiters and Lee could all be signed at relatively team-friendly deals compared to Barnes, while giving the Sixers an added dimension to their roster that it doesn't currently have.

Expect Colangelo to make a push for a few of these guards in the coming days. Shooting guard and point guard are the positions the team will need to address in the offseason.

The NBA free agent frenzy begins Friday. GETTY IMAGES

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METRO GOLF

Philly golf review: Five Ponds Golf Club really does has it all

Five Ponds Golf Club only has four ponds. Head professional Ron Stepanek counted them.

But that's OK. It has 18 holes of finely manicured, challenging golf with five tee boxes on each. It has two picturesque par 3s over water, tree-laden par 5s and enormous sloping greens. It also has a state of the art, free (yes, free) practice facility with three greens, bunkers, pitching and chipping areas and a driving range.

Give the Warminster golf course a pass for mis-representing their ponds. The course is exceptional everywhere it counts.

"When you stand on the tee you get a sense of the hole," Stepanek said. "What you see is what you get. We recently did a lot of work to take down a lot of trees between holes. We took down probably 60 trees."

The par-3 third hole will challenge your ball-striking skills. STEVE DAG

Short game is key at Five Ponds, and getting up and down is an accomplishment to be proud of.

"Because of the age of the golf course, it's rather new, the greens are rather large," the pro said. "You have to really pay attention to the size of the greens. On the shorter holes, the greens are more undulating. It's the sign of a good design, balancing the difficulty of it."

The course is young and offers a bevy of memorable holes. Picking a favorite isn't easy.

"Hole 15 is sneaky good," Stepanek said of the longest hole on the golf course and the third par 5. "The signature holes are 3 and 17. They are picturesque [par 3s]. [The par-5] 12th to me is a different view. It's not an open course but No. 12 is a lot more wooded than any other hole out there for sure. It's one of those things where good players can reach in two sometimes."

The golf club does a lot to support junior golf and veterans, and starting July 1 the course will offer $10 off for veterans, active military or anyone wearing red (before 11 a.m.) to show support for the U.S. armed forces. EVAN MACY

Local knowledge tip: "There's a bail-out area on every hole, a way every golfer of every ability can play."
Price range: From $25 (walking, twilight) to $55 (weekend morning)

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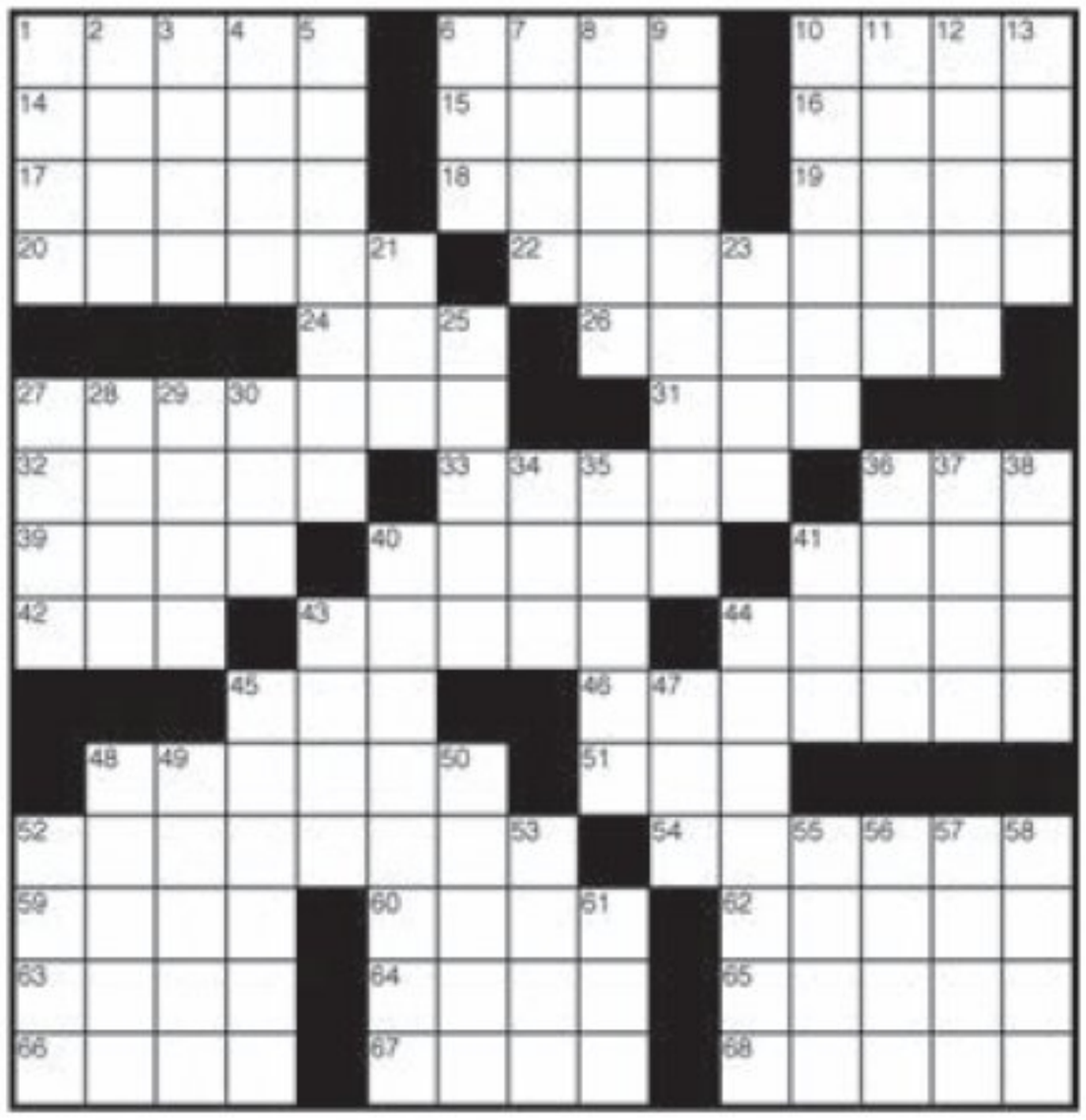

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19 Organ part
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Down

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